to Rs. 73 crores should not be recovered from them. The quasi-judicial proceedings on the notices so issued are still in progress and therefore, no further comment can be offered at this stage.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irrigation pumps sets financed by NABARD

2239. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the 90 lakhs irrigation pump sets financed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, nearly 96 per cent are defective and running at a low efficiency;

(b) if so, whether NABARD has any mechanism to judge the quality of these sets and verify their performance; and

(c) what is the quantum of financial involvement of NABARD in the field of irrigation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as per studies conducted by it, nearly 96 per cent of the pump sets were not functioning at optimum efficiency leaving a scope for improvement by about 10-15 per cent. The defects noticed generally were improper installation, wrong sized suction/delivery pipes quality being not up to the mark etc.

(b) NABARD has since stipulated that only ISI pump sets or those having 'Q' mark of the State Government will be eligible for refinance assistance. NABARD has also evolved a scheme for a supplementary loan for replacement of defective piping system and foot valve and also for correcting installation defects.

(c) Details of refinance assistance provided by NABARD to banks under minor irrigation schemes during the last three years are furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of refinance provided
1982-83	244·13
1983-84	312·51
1984-85	335·55

News-item captioned "Sick Units in IDBI portfolio double

2240. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Sick Units in IDBI portfolio double' which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 10th September, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the IDBI has not taken enough care to detect incipient sickness at the appropriate time;

(c) whether indepth study of all the units which have gone sick during the last one year has been done;

(d) what follow-up measures are taken by the IDBI when the units start defaulting payment; and

(e) whether there is any system in IDBI to make officers accountable when projects go wrong because of the faulty appraisal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) It has been reported by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) that the increase in the number of sick units over the previous year is mainly on account of addition of a number of sick units belonging to cotton textiles, sugar and paper industry. IDBI reviews regularly all defaulting accounts and where warranted, necessary re-schedulement, defer-

ment of instalments etc., are granted. A special recovery cell, constituted in the head office of IDBI, constantly reviews all the defaulting accounts and follows-up with the units for recovery of dues. The projects are generally appraised by a team of officers drawn from all financial institutions and appraisal reports are discussed in joint meetings of the Senior Executives of the institutions.

Weeding out of corrupt Income-tax Officials

2241. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing some problems in weeding out corrupt Income Tax officials at the level of Assistant Commissioners; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the failure on the part of Government to punish corrupt officials is likely to demoralise the honest officers in the department;

(c) what effective steps Government are taking to boost the morale of the honest officers; and

(d) how many income-tax officials have gone for voluntary retirement so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such failure. Hence the question does not arise.

(c) Assurance has been given, both orally as well as in writing, to all the officers in the Department that action to weed out corruption and inefficiency will be taken only on the basis of concrete evidence and not anonymous complaints, rumours or hearsay, and that the honest officials can continue to do their work to the best of their ability without any unnecessary fear or apprehension.

(d) 58.

Setting up of Tourist Resorts with French Collaboration

2242. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some exploratory talks are going on between the French resort chain-Club Mediterrance—with the Taj Group of hotels on the one band on the possibility of starting a joint venture and with Government on the other hand a 100 per cent foreign-owned tourist resort in the country;

(b) if so, what are the terms offered by the Chairman of the French Group during the negotiations with the Government Officials; and

(c) what are the names of the places where these tourist resorts are to be established in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dual pricing system for steel

2243. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Administrative Reforms Commission have suggested dual pricing system for steel;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) what types of steel products are to be covered by this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.